

*Liturgical Resources for World Environment Day (Focus on Climate Change)*

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

God is our refuge and strength,  
a very present help in trouble.

Psalm 46

**Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,  
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;  
though its waters roar and foam,  
though the mountains tremble with its tumult.**

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,  
the holy habitation of the Most High.

**God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved;  
God will help it when the morning dawns.**

The LORD of hosts is with us;  
**the God of Jacob is our refuge.**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Loving God, you created the earth,  
filled it with your glory, and called it good.  
You made us in your image  
and charged us with the responsibility  
of caring for your good and glorious creation.  
We confess that we have neglected that calling.  
Worse—our violence, waste, and greed  
have endangered the very world you made.**

**Have mercy on us, O God.  
Pour out your abundant grace  
to refresh the parched earth,  
to restore the beauty your creation,  
and to replenish our resolve to serve you  
as faithful caretakers of the world you so love;  
through Jesus Christ our Savior.**

**SERMON IDEAS**

In 2009, the Sunday immediately following World Environment Day (June 5) is Trinity Sunday (June 7). Without diverting focus from the primary liturgical festival—the praise and celebration of the Trinity—consider the power and providence of the Triune God in creating, redeeming, and sustaining the world. How might we best respond, with honor and gratitude, to these wondrous, life-giving works of God?

The Hebrew Scripture lesson is Isaiah 6:1-8, in which the heavenly host sing that the whole earth is full of God's glory. Psalm 29 proclaims God's sovereignty over the chaos of the flood. The epistle text, Romans 8:12-17, immediately precedes the passage where Paul describes the whole creation groaning in labor pains, awaiting redemption in Christ. The gospel lesson for the day, John 3:1-17 ("For God so loved the world ..."),

offers an opportunity to reflect on the way in which God's generous love embraces the whole cosmos, the whole creation.

## **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

*The following Great Thanksgiving would be appropriate (with modifications as appropriate in your context) for any eucharistic celebration with attention to ecological concerns.*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise,  
loving God, creator and sustainer of all life.

You spread out the dazzling canopy of the heavens  
and established the deep foundations of the earth;  
you lifted up mountains and hills, high and stately,  
and poured out oceans and rivers, flowing free.

You made all the creatures of the earth to show your glory,  
and human beings, in your image, to care for this world,  
your good gift, our beautiful and precious home.

When human violence, corruption, and greed laid waste to your good creation  
you sent a great flood to wash away the stain of sin.

With the covenant sign of the rainbow,  
you promised never to let the earth be destroyed again.

Then, in the fullness of time, out of your great love for the world,  
you sent Jesus Christ to redeem and restore the earth,  
healing its brokenness, making all things new.

Therefore we praise you,  
joining our voices with choirs of angels,  
with prophets, apostles, and martyrs,  
with all creatures great and small,  
and with all the faithful of every time and place  
who forever sing to the glory of your name:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

You are holy, O God of majesty,  
and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Word made flesh.

Christ is the Word that brought order to chaos

bringing all things into being,  
breathing Spirit into dust.  
Christ is the Light that overcame the darkness,  
shining from the dawn of creation  
to the daybreak of your eternal realm.  
Christ is the Water that quenches our thirst,  
flowing from the hearts of believers  
and springing up into eternal life.  
Christ is the Bread that rises from the earth,  
feeding the poor and hungry,  
giving us wisdom and strength for each day.  
Christ is the Vine that connects all creation,  
binding us together in the unity of the Spirit,  
causing us to bear fruit for the world.  
Christ is the Life that death could not destroy,  
who gave his life in love for the world,  
who lives and reigns forever.

Remembering your gracious acts in Jesus Christ,  
we take from your creation this bread and this wine  
and joyfully celebrate his dying and rising,  
as we await the day of his coming.  
With thanksgiving, we offer our very selves to you  
to be a living and holy sacrifice, dedicated to your service.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

**Dying you destroyed our death,  
rising you restored our life.  
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us  
and upon these your gifts of bread and wine  
that the bread we break and the cup we bless  
may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ.  
By your Spirit make us one with Christ,  
and one with all who share this meal,  
united in ministry in every place.  
As this bread is Christ's body for us,  
send us out to be Christ's body for the world.

Keep us faithful until that time  
when no one will not hurt or destroy  
on all your holy mountain,  
and the earth will be full of your glory  
as the waters cover the sea.  
Hasten the coming of the day  
when the wolf shall live in peace with the lamb  
and the leopard shall lie down with the kid,

the calf and the lion and the fatling together,  
and a little child shall lead them.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honor and glory are yours, almighty God,  
now and forever.

**Amen.**